

From: JP Altier
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 3:39pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am deeply concerned at the way our government has pursued the destruction of Microsoft, one of the most productive and beneficial companies in our world. In a truly free society, where property rights are vigorously protected, there is absolutely no need for antitrust laws. Microsoft, in fact, is a prime example of the concept that a company can sustain a dominant market position if and only if it provides a markedly superior product than any of its competitors. The very nature of the fact that Microsoft's products are inexpensive and ubiquitous has benefited this world immeasurably. Microsoft, therefore, deserves the market position and profits it has reaped in exchange for the products it has produced.

The fact that Microsoft negotiated vigorously with its customers and competitors should not be a crime. Microsoft did not deprive other companies or consumers of their property rights. Nor did Microsoft obtain its will by deception or physical force. Every company no matter how large or small should have the right to control the destiny of their own products and the right to determine the terms and conditions of their business relationships so long as their practices never include deception or physical force.

For a court to have retroactively declared that Microsoft was a monopoly some time in the past and that all of its otherwise legal actions are now criminal acts goes against our most basic instincts of fairness and justice.

I strongly urge all parties involved in this case to mitigate the harm to Microsoft and our economy that will result from the enforcement of our misguided antitrust laws. At the very least, I urge the Department of Justice and States Attorney Generals to cease litigation in this matter and I urge the presiding judge to accept the Stipulation and Revised Final Judgment dated November 6th, 2001.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Altier

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